Last week, the Town Hall played host to more than 80 second grade students from Cobbles Elementary School making their annual trek to learn about town government and local town history. This is the 25th year I have had the honor and pleasure to speak with the second-graders, a tradition that started when my oldest daughter was in second grade. The students viewed a short presentation of life in Penfield and attempted to identify some of the tools and utensils used in 19th century homes. We also discussed the settling and incorporation of Penfield, the different industries throughout the town, what it was like to attend school in the early 1800s, and then we discussed how different life in Penfield is today. This event is always a big hit at the Town Hall as the students bring their energy and enthusiasm for learning about their community.

I attended an open house for the St. John’s Green House Homes at the Arbor Ridge Subdivision off Fellows Road. Two homes will each house ten residents who will have their own living units. The ten units surround a family-style residence including kitchen, dining, family room and library. This concept teaches us to see aging not as decline, but as a continuous stage of growth and development in a human life. On behalf of the entire community of Penfield, I welcome the twenty new residents to our community - and in some cases, welcome back to our community!

Music, music, music…the Kiwanis Stage at the Amphitheater opened the 2011 season for three days of some of the most incredible musical talent you can find anywhere in the region. I want to recognize the Penfield School District Music Departments, the Penfield Symphony Orchestra, Scandals, and Steve Grills and the Roadmasters - you help define our 2011 amphitheater program “Pen Rocks”!

I had the great pleasure to join County Executive Maggie Brooks for the ribbon cutting to officially open Abraham Lincoln Park, located on Empire Blvd. This is the newest park to the county park’s system featuring a tot lot, open air picnic pavilions, a nature playground experience and the trail head for access down to the bay. This park is a wonderful addition to the county parks experience.

Penfield was recently recognized by the Public Employer Risk Management Association, Inc. (PERMA) for receiving a high loss control evaluation score for fiscal year 2010. This was earned as a result of hard work by all our employees ensuring they are working safely in all jobs across the town, by attending the legally required safety training, following documented procedures and policies, and reporting unsafe conditions and near misses. Penfield continues to be in the top percentile of communities that belong to PERMA.

The Penfield Little League (PLL) organization recently hosted two very special days. First was “Hero’s Day” to recognize boys and girls whose parents are deployed and are not able to be part of the 2011 season. It is hard for both the children and the parents not to share the baseball season. The second event was opening day for the Challengers Division. This group of children is able to take advantage of the baseball experience with the help of a mentor who helps athletes hit and run the bases. This is the second season I have been able to observe this wonderful event; seeing the joy on the faces of the children involved, their mentors and the families is priceless. Congratulations to President Steve Pellow and the entire board of directors for PLL on making the “American Pastime” the greatest experience for more than 1,000 boys and girls and their families.

A few dates to remember: Monday, June 13 at 7:00 PM the Penfield Pops Band will play at the Kiwanis Stage and Amphitheater; Friday, June 24 will be the first “Penfield Movie Night” at Rothfuss Park at 8:00 PM featuring “Despicable Me,” Saturday, July 2 at 10:00 AM will be the Independence Day Parade. For details on these and scores of other events please log on to www.penfield.org.

Until next week, be well and be safe!

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